

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10261 022135Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----058469 031541Z /53

R 021627Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3255  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10261

EXDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AORG, FAO  
SUBJECT: LEBANON: FAO/DG VIEWS

1. DURING ONE HOUR DISCUSSION JUNE 1 WITH US REP AND VISITING AID  
MISSION CHIEF IRWIN FROM BEIRUT, DG SAOUMA, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED  
FROM LEBANON, MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST:

A) HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND ABSENCE OF ANY FUNDING IN  
CURRENT US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS FOR LEBANON ESPECIALLY  
IN VIEW OF SECRETARY VANCE'S STRONG WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR  
LEBANON. LEBANESE LEADERS WITH WHOM HE SPOKE SHARED THIS DISAP-  
POINTMENT. FACT THAT SYRIA, WHICH ALSO WELL SUPPORTED BY OTHER  
ARAB DONORS TO RECEIVE \$60 MILLION MOSTLY IN GRANT MONEY, WHILE  
LEBANON TO RECEIVE NOTHING AND IS RECEIVING MUCH OF CURRENT U.S.  
SUPPORT ON LOAN BASIS WAS PARTICULARLY NOTED. DG DID NOTE WITH  
SOME PRIDE AND ASTONISHMENT THAT LEBANON, DESPITE THE FIGHTING,  
HAD EXPORTED, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL FIGURES, TO A VALUE OF  
\$650 MILLION IN 1977 AND HE ASSUMED REAL AMOUNTS HIGHER.

B) HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND SGY WALDHEIM'S DEFERENCE TO  
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PLO. FACT THAT SYG HAD VISITED ARAFAT IN LATTER'S HQ RATHER  
THAN VICE-VERSA WAS DEPLORABLE AS WAS SYG REFUSAL TO HAVE  
UNIFIL OCCUPY A KEY BRIDGE OVER LITANI BECUASE OF ANXIETY  
OVER PLO REACTION. SAOUMA DEPLORED FACT THAT SYG HAD NOT  
SOUGHT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT VIEWS. HE THOUGHT LEBANON WOULD BE  
FATAL TO WALDHEIM'S REPUTATION.

C) HE DEPLORED LATEST INCIDENT OF FIRING BY CHRISTIANS IN MARYAOUN AT PLO TARGETS, ASSERTING THAT ISRAELIS HAD UNDOUBTEDLY INSTIGATED THIS IN ORDER TO PRODUCE POLO REACTION WHICH WOULD, IN TURN, JUSTIFY FURTHER DELAY IN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HE HAD NO FAITH THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN OR THAT PLO WHICH "LIES AS ANY REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT WILL READILY DO TO ACHIEVE ITS ENDS" WOULD REFRAIN FROM ACTIVITY IN SOUTH.

D) HE CITED A KUWAITI PRESS REPORT THAT ONE OF TERRORISTS KILLED IN RECENT SHOOT-OUT AT ORLY AIRPORT WAS KILLER OF AMB. MELOY.

2. COMMENT: CONVERSATION STEMMED FROM SUGGESTION BY WFP WITH WHOM IRWIN CONFERRING HERE THAT DG MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN TALK WITH IRWIN AND PARALLEL OFFER EXTENDED BY US REP TO DG'S OFFICE. COMMENTS BY WFP AND DG WITH RESPECT TO U.S. SUPPORT OF UN-COORDINATED ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN LEBANON WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY BY IRWIN.GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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